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*The Crucible* Anticipation/Reaction Guide Statement #8

The judicial system in the United States is based on a principal that one is innocent until proven guilty by a judge or a jury, which is why it is quite agreeable. An example that is based on this statement could be what took place in the Salem Witch Trials. One was automatically guilty if they were accused, and no one would get a fair trial. A lot of innocent people were killed because of this. During the Salem Witch Trials, people were forced to admit their own guilt and inform on others, and no one would get a fair trial. Questions were worded so to make it nearly impossible to prove one's innocence. If a person insisted that they were innocent, it was assumed that the Devil was messing with their heads. Each trial lead down the same direction, a witch that confessed was punished, and an accused witch who did not confess was also punished. Under a theocratic government, there were no winners nor losers, only those unfairly put to intense and horrifying deaths. A theocracy is a very dangerous form of government because it is unjust, has no real structure, and ironically put the innocent to death and let the guilty live. A defendant should be considered innocent until it can be proved that one is guilty. If they are accused of a crime, one should always have the right to defend themselves. Nobody has the right to condemn a person and punish them for something they have not done. Even though the credo of the United States is stated as innocent until proven guilty, criminal defendants are undeniably presumed to be guilty, it is for this reason that they are arrested and kept in some sort of pre-trial detention or released on bail, bond, or their own recognizance before a trial. Back in the day when people were scared of everything, people could blame others without any proof and the accused would be killed, because people were guilty until proven innocent. They did this because they were scared of what might come next. They just wanted to live a perfect life and go to heaven without anything or anybody getting in their way. There has been proof that this happens because the accused have no other option but to confess or have their name posted around town and have it tainted by false accusations. Arthur Miller feels that the theme of the play/movie is still relevant. He stated, “I am not sure what *The Crucible* is telling people now, but I know that its paranoid center is still pumping out the same darkly attractive warning that it did in the fifties.”(Miller) There are still situations where people are presumed guilty until proven innocent, even though that is in opposition to one of our basic rules of law. In this country, we are supposed to be presumed innocent until proven guilty by a court of law.

Works Cited:

* "MissTransue - Innocent Until Provent Guilty." *MissTransue - Innocent Until Provent Guilty*. N.p., n.d. Web. 14 Oct. 2013.